Geometry of spherical varieties and Newton–Okounkov polytopes

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Main results

Euler characteristic of complete intersections in reductive groups

How to extend Brion-Kazarnovskii formula to subvarieties that are not complete intersections?

Convex geometric models for Schubert calculus

How to extend results of K.-Smirnov-Timorin to Schubert cycles on complete flag varieties in any type?

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Notation

Let G be a complex connected reductive group of dimension d and rank r. Let $T \subset G$ be a maximal torus (that is, dim T = r).

Examples

- $G = (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ complex torus; d = r = n;
- $SL_n(\mathbb{C})$ special linear group; $d=n^2-1$; r=n-1;

*Sp*_{2n}(ℂ) − symplectic group; *d* = n² + n; *r* = n.

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More notation

Let $\pi: G \to GL(V)$ be a faithful finite-dimensional complex representation of G.

Definition

A generic hyperplane section $H_\pi\subset G$ is the preimage $\pi^{-1}(H)$ of a generic affine hyperplane $H\subset\mathrm{End}(\mathrm{V}).$

Definition

The weight polytope $P_{\pi} \subset L_{\mathcal{T}} \otimes \mathbb{R}$ is the convex hull of all weights of \mathcal{T} that occur in π .

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Example

Weight polytope of the adjoint representation of $SL_3(\mathbb{C})$:

 $V = \operatorname{End}(\mathbb{C}^3) \ni X;$ Ad(g) : $X \mapsto gXg^{-1}.$



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Theorem (D.Bernstein, Khovanskii, 1978)

Let $G = (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$. The topological Euler characteristic of a generic hyperplane section H_{π} can be computed as follows:

$$\chi(H_{\pi}) = (-1)^{d-1} d! \operatorname{Volume}(P_{\pi}).$$

Remark

In the torus case, the weight polytope P_{π} coincides with the Newton polytope of a Laurent polynomial f such that $H_{\pi} = \{f = 0\}$.

Outline of the proof

First show that $\chi(H_{\pi}) = (-1)^{d-1} H_{\pi}^d$, then apply the Kouchnirenko theorem.

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Theorem (Brion 1989, Kazarnovskii 1987)

Let $\mathcal{D} \subset L_T \otimes \mathbb{R}$ be a dominant Weyl chamber, R^+ the set of positive roots of G, and ρ the half of the sum of all positive roots of G.

$$H_{\pi}^{d} = d! \int_{P_{\pi} \cap \mathcal{D}} \prod_{\alpha \in R^{+}} \frac{(x, \alpha)^{2}}{(\rho, \alpha)^{2}} dx.$$

The measure dx on $L_T \otimes \mathbb{R}$ is normalized so that the covolume of L_T is 1.

Remark

The RHS can be interpreted as the volume of a *d*-dimensional Newton–Okounkov polytope.

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Gelfand–Zetlin polytope for SL_3



The Gelfand–Zetlin polytopes $GZ(\lambda)$ for SL_3 :

$$\lambda_1 \qquad \lambda_2 \qquad \lambda_3 \\ x \qquad y \\ z \qquad z$$

On the picture, $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3) = (-1, 0, 1).$

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Brion-Kazarnovskii formula for SL3



Take the polytope that projects to $P_{\pi} \cap \mathcal{D}$ and whose fiber at λ is $GZ(\lambda) \times GZ(\lambda)$



Non-torus example (Kaveh, 2001)

Let $G = SL_2(\mathbb{C})$. If π is an irreducible representation of $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ with the highest weight $n\omega_1$, then

$$\chi(H_{\pi})=2n^3-4n^2+4n.$$

Counterexample

The identity

$$\chi(H_\pi) = (-1)^d H_\pi^d$$

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Theorem (K., 2004)

There exist elements S_1, \ldots, S_{d-r} (*Chern classes*) in the ring of conditions of G (regarded as $G \times G$ -space) such that

$$\chi(H_{\pi}) = (-1)^{d-1} H_{\pi}^{d} + \sum_{i=1}^{d-r} (-1)^{d-i-1} S_i H_{\pi}^{d-i}.$$

Example

If $G = SL_2(\mathbb{C})$, then $S_1 = [H_{Ad}]$, $S_2 = 2[T]$. Hence,

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Theorem (K., 2006)

The Euler characteristic of the complete intersection $H_1 \cap \ldots \cap H_m$ is equal to the term of degree d in the expansion of the following product:

$$(1 + S_1 + \ldots + S_{d-r}) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^m H_i (1 + H_i)^{-1}.$$

The product in this formula is the intersection product in the ring of conditions.

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Theorem (K., 2007)

Define the polynomial $F_i(x, y)$ on $(L_T \oplus L_T) \otimes \mathbb{R}$ by extending:

$$F_i(\lambda_1,\lambda_2) := c_i(G/B \times G/B)D^{d-r-i}(\lambda_1,\lambda_2)$$

Then

$$S_i H_{\pi}^{d-i} = \frac{(d-i)!}{(d-r-i)!} \int\limits_{P_{\pi} \cap \mathcal{D}} F_i(x,x) dx.$$

Remark

For i = 0 and $S_0 = G$, this formula becomes the Brion–Kazarnovskii formula for G.

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Example

Let $G = SL_3(\mathbb{C})$. If π is an irreducible representation of $SL_3(\mathbb{C})$ with the highest weight $m\omega_1 + n\omega_2$, then $\chi(H_{\pi})$ is equal to

$$\begin{split} &-3(m^8+16m^7n+112m^6n^2+448m^5n^3+700m^4n^4+448m^3n^5+112m^2n^6+\\ &16mn^7+n^8+18(m^6+12m^5n+50m^4n^2+80m^3n^3+50m^2n^4+12mn^5+n^6)+\\ &+6(5m^4+40m^3n+72m^2n^2+40mn^3+5n^4)+6(m^2+4mn+n^2)-\\ &-6(m+n)(m^6+13m^5n+71m^4n^2+139m^3n^3+71m^2n^4+13mn^5+n^6+\\ &+5(m^4+9m^3n+19m^2n^2+9mn^3+n^4)+3(m^2+5mn+n^2))). \end{split}$$

Convex geometric models for Schubert calculus

Let X = G/B be the complete flag variety.

Question

How to represent Newton–Okounkov polytopes of Schubert cycles by unions of faces of a single polytope?

Polytopes

Generalizatons of Gelfand–Zetlin polytopes from GL_n to G include *string polytopes*, Newton–Okounkov polytopes of flag varieties, and polytopes constructed via convex-geometric divided difference operators (K., 2016).

Main tool

Geometric mitosis — a convex geometric incarnation of Demazure operators (K., 2016).

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Motivating example: flag varieties in type A

Definition

The *flag variety* X is the variety of complete flags in \mathbb{C}^n :

$$X = \{\{0\} = V^0 \subset V^1 \subset \ldots \subset V^{n-1} \subset V^n = \mathbb{C}^n \mid \dim V^i = i\}$$

Remark

Alternatively, $X = GL_n(\mathbb{C})/B$, where B denotes the group of upper-triangular matrices (*Borel subgroup*). In this form, the definition can be extended to arbitrary connected reductive groups.

Schubert varieties

$$X_w = \overline{BwB/B}, \ w \in S_n$$

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give basis in $H^*(X,\mathbb{Z})$.

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Schubert varieties for GL_3/B .



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Gelfand–Zetlin polytopes

The Gelfand–Zetlin polytope Δ_{λ} is defined by inequalities:



where $(x_1^1, \ldots, x_{n-1}^1; \ldots; x_1^{n-1})$ are coordinates in \mathbb{R}^d , and the notation

a b c

means a < c < b.

Gelfand-Zetlin polytopes



A Gelfand–Zetlin polytope for *GL*₃:

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
-1 & 0 & 1 \\
 & x & y \\
 & z
\end{array}$$

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$$= [X_{s_1}] + [X_{s_2}]$$

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Results

- Relation between Schubert varieties and preimages of rc-faces of P_{λ} under the Guillemin–Sternberg moment map $X \rightarrow P_{\lambda}$ (Kogan, 2000)
- Degenerations of Schubert varieties to (reducible) toric varieties given by (unions of) faces of P_{λ} (Kogan–E.Miller, Knutson–E.Miller, 2003)
- Description of H^{*}(X, Z) using volume polynomial of P_λ (Kaveh, 2011)
- Schubert calculus: intersection product of Schubert cycles in $H^*(X,\mathbb{Z})$ = intersection of faces in P_{λ} (K.-Smirnov-Timorin, 2012)

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String polytopes

(J.Miller, 2014)

Newton-Okounkov polytopes of Schubert varieties can be represented by unions of faces of a given string polytope.

Remark

This is an existence result. Explicit descriptions of such faces are so far known in the case of GL_n , $\overline{w_0} = s_1(s_2s_1)\cdots(s_{n-1}\cdots s_1)$ (K.–Smirnov–Timorin, 2012) and Sp_4 , $\overline{w_0} = s_1s_2s_1s_2$ (Ilyukhina, 2012).

Problem

Find an efficient algorithm for representing Schubert cycles explicitly by unions of faces.

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Geometric mitosis



Coordinate parallelepipeds Let $\Pi := \Pi(\mu, \nu) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be given by inequalities $\mu_i \leq x_i \leq \nu_i$ for i = 1, ..., n.

Essential edges

An edge of Π is *essential* if it is given by equations

$$x_1 = \mu_1, \dots, x_{i-1} = \mu_{i-1}; \quad x_{i+1} = \nu_{i+1}, \dots, x_n = \nu_n$$



A coordinate parallelepiped in R³ and its essential edges.

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For every face $\Gamma \subset \Pi$, we now define a collection of faces $M(\Gamma)$

- 1. Let k be the minimal number such that $\Gamma \subseteq \{x_i = \mu_i\}$ for all i > k (in particular, $\Gamma \nsubseteq \{x_k = \mu_k\}$) and $\nu_i \neq \mu_i$ for at least one i > k. If no such k exists then $M(\Gamma) = \emptyset$.
- 2. Under the isomorphism $\mathbb{R}^n \simeq \mathbb{R}^k \times \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$; $(x_1, \ldots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1, \ldots, x_k) \times (x_{k+1}, \ldots, x_n)$ we have

 $\Pi \simeq \Pi' \times \Pi''; \quad \Gamma \simeq \Gamma' \times v$

where $v = (\mu_{k+1}, \dots, \mu_n) \in \Pi''$ and $\Gamma' \subset \Pi'$.

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Example



The subdivision of a tetrahedron by two extra edges yields a combinatorial cube. Essential edges of the cube form a single edge of the tetrahedron.

Mitosis on parallelepipeds and pipe-dreams Faces can be encoded by $2 \times n$ tables

$$\begin{array}{c|c} + \Leftrightarrow x_1 = \mu_1 & \dots & + \Leftrightarrow x_n = \mu_n \\ + \Leftrightarrow x_1 = \nu_1 & \dots & + \Leftrightarrow x_n = \nu_n \end{array}$$

Example

If $\Pi(\mu, \nu) \subset \mathbb{R}^4$, where $\mu = (1, 1, 1, 1)$ and $\nu = (2, 2, 1, 2)$ (that is, $\mu_3 = \nu_3$), then the vertex $\Gamma = \{x_1 = \nu_1, x_2 = \mu_2, x_4 = \mu_4\}$ is



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Gelfand-Zetlin polytope



has (n-1) different fibrations by coordinate parallelepipeds. Hence, there are (n-1) different mitosis operations on its faces.

Example GL₃





Example GL₃





Example GL₃
















Example GL₃





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Example Sp₄

Take $\overline{w_0} = s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1$. The corresponding DDO polytope Q_λ is given by inequalities

$$\begin{split} 0 &\leq x \leq \lambda_1, \quad z \leq x + \lambda_2, \quad y \leq 2z, \\ y &\leq z + \lambda_2, \quad 0 \leq t \leq \lambda_2, \quad t \leq \frac{y}{2}. \end{split}$$

Remark

The polytopes Q_{λ} coincide with the Newton–Okounkov polytopes of Sp_4/B for the lowest order term valuation v associated with the flag of subvarieties $w_0X_{id} \subset s_1s_2s_1X_{s_2} \subset s_1s_2X_{s_1s_2} \subset s_1X_{s_2s_1s_2} \subset X$.

Remark

The polytopes Q_{λ} have 11 vertices so they are not combinatorially equivalent to string polytopes associated with $s_2s_1s_2s_1$ or $s_1s_2s_1s_2$.

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Skew pipe-dreams

Faces that contain the lowest vertex $a_{\lambda} = (0, 0, 0, 0)$ can be encoded by the diagrams:

$$+ \iff 0 = t$$
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Parallelepipeds

The polytope Q_{λ} admits two different fibrations (by translates of xy- and zt-planes), hence, there are two mitosis operations M_1 and M_2 on faces of Q_{λ} .

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 $Sp_4/B = \{ (V^1 \subset V^2 \subset V^3 \subset \mathbb{C}^4) \mid \omega \mid_{V^2} = 0, V^1 = V^{3\perp} \} = \\ = \{ (a \in I \subset \mathbb{P}^3) \mid I - \text{ isotropic line } \}$

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Schubert cycles for Sp₄



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Valuation

Let $X^n \subset \mathbb{P}^N$ be a projective subvariety with coordinates (x_1, \ldots, x_n) in a neighborhood of a smooth point $p \in X$. Define the valuation $v : \mathbb{C}(X) \to \mathbb{Z}^n$ by sending every polynomial $f(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ to (k_1, \ldots, k_n) where $x_1^{k_1} \cdots x_n^{k_n}$ is the lowest degree term in f (assuming that $x_1 \succ x_2 \succ \ldots \succ x_n$).

Vector space

Let $V \subset \mathbb{C}(X)$ be the vector space spanned by $1, \frac{y_1}{y_0}, \ldots, \frac{y_N}{y_0}$, where (y_0, y_1, \ldots, y_N) are homogeneous coordinates on \mathbb{P}^N .

Example

If $X = \nu_N(\mathbb{P}^1) = \{(u_0^N : u_1 u_0^{N-1} : \ldots : u_1^N)\} \subset \mathbb{P}^N$ and $x_1 = \frac{u_1}{u_0}$, then v(f) = the order of zero (or pole) of f at p = (1:0) and $V = \langle 1, x_1, \ldots, x_1^N \rangle$.

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Naive definition

The Newton-Okounkov polytope $\Delta_{v}(X) \subset \mathbb{R}^{n}$ of X^{n} is the convex hull of v(f) for all $f \in V$.

Example $\Delta_{\nu}(\nu_{N}(\mathbb{P}^{1})) = [0, N] \subset \mathbb{R}^{1}$

Example

A toric variety X^n has a natural system of coordinates (x_1, \ldots, x_n) coming from $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n \subset X^n$. For a projective embedding $X^n \subset \mathbb{P}^N$, the space V is spanned by monomials in x_1, \ldots, x_n . Hence, the valuation v does not matter, and $\Delta_v(X^n)$ is always the Newton polytope of X.

Observation

If n!volume $(\Delta_v(X)) = \deg(X)$, then the naive definition coincides with the correct definition.

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Coordinates on the open Schubert cell

If the flag $(a \in I \subset \mathbb{P}^2)$ is in general position with a fixed flag $(a_0 \in I_0 \subset \mathbb{P}^2)$, then $I \cap I_0 = a' \neq a_0$ and $a \notin I_0$. Hence,

$$a'=(x:1:0);$$
 $l=\langle a',(y:0:1)
angle;$ $a=(xz+y:z:1)$

are coordinates (assuming that $a_0 = (1:0:0)$, $l_0 = \{(\star:\star:0)\}$).



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(D.Anderson, 2011)

Consider the embedding $p: GL_3/B \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^2 \times (\mathbb{P}^2)^* \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^8$; $p: (a, l) \mapsto a \times l$. Then p takes the flag with coordinates (x, y, z) to

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High school geometry problem

How many flags in \mathbb{P}^2 are not in general position with respect to three given flags?





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Two flags in general position



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Two flags in general position



Two flags NOT in general position

(日)

Three flags in the plane



A flag not in general position with respect to three given flags: variant $\boldsymbol{1}$



A flag not in general position with respect to three given flags: variant $\mathbf{2}$

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A flag not in general position with respect to three given flags. Answer: 6.

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Valuations on $\mathbb{C}(G/B)$

Decomposition of w₀

Fix a reduced decomposition $\overline{w_0} = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_d}$ of the longest element w_0 in the Weyl group of G.

Flag of Schubert varieties

Choose coordinates compatible with the flag $X_{id} \subset X_{s_{i_d}} \subset X_{s_{i_d-1}s_{i_d}} \subset \ldots \subset X_{s_{i_2}\cdots s_{i_d}} \subset X$ (coordinates "at infinity").

Flag of translated Schubert varieties

Choose coordinates compatible with the flag $w_0 X_{id} \subset s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_{d-1}} X_{s_{i_d}} \subset s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_{d-2}} X_{s_{i_{d-1}} s_{i_d}} \subset \dots \subset s_{i_1} X_{s_{i_2} \dots s_{i_d}} \subset X$ (coordinates at the open Schubert cell).

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(Okounkov, 1998)

The symplectic Gelfand-Zetlin polytopes coincide with the Newton-Okounkov polytopes of Sp_{2n}/B for the lowest order term valuation v associated with the flag of Schubert varieties for initial subwords of $\overline{w_0} = (s_1)(s_2s_1s_2)\dots(s_ns_{n-1}\dots s_2s_1s_2\dots s_{n-1}s_n)$.

(Kaveh, 2013)

The string polytopes associated with $\overline{w_0}$ coincide with the Newton–Okounkov polytopes of X for the highest order term valuation v associated with the flag of Schubert varieties for $\overline{w_0}$.

Example

If $G = GL_n$ and $\overline{w_0} = s_1(s_2s_1)\cdots(s_{n-1}\cdots s_1)$ then the corresponding string polytopes are exactly Gelfand–Zetlin polytopes.

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(Fujita–Naito, Fujita–Oya 2017)

The string polytopes associated with $\overline{w_0}$ coincide with the Newton-Okounkov polytopes of X for the lowest order term-initial subwords valuation v_{in} and for the highest order term-terminal subwords valuation v^{term} associated with the flag of Schubert varieties $\overline{w_0}$. The Nakashima-Zelevinsky polyhedral realizations associated with $\overline{w_0}$ coincide with the Newton-Okounkov polytopes of X for the lowest order term-terminal subwords valuation v_{term} and for the highest order term-initial subwords valuation v_{term} the flag of Schubert varieties $\overline{w_0}$.

(E.Feigin–Fourier–Littelmann 2017)

The Feigin–Fourier–Littelmann–Vinberg polytopes coincide with the Newton–Okounkov polytopes of X for a valuation not coming from any longest word decomposition $\overline{w_0}$

(K. 2017)

The Feigin–Fourier–Littelmann–Vinberg polytopes in type A coincide with the Newton–Okounkov polytopes of X for the longest word decomposition $\overline{w_0} = s_1(s_2s_1)\cdots(s_{n-1}\cdots s_1)$ and the lowest order term valuation associated with the flag of translated Schubert subvarieties:

$$w_0 X_{id} \subset s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_{d-1}} X_{s_{i_d}} \subset s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_{d-2}} X_{s_{i_{d-1}} s_{i_d}} \subset \dots \subset s_{i_1} X_{s_{i_2} \dots s_{i_d}} \subset X$$

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$$w_0 X_{id} \subset s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_{d-1}} X_{s_{i_d}} \subset s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_{d-2}} X_{s_{i_{d-1}} s_{i_d}} \subset \dots \subset s_{i_1} X_{s_{i_2} \dots s_{i_d}} \subset X$$

Thank you!

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